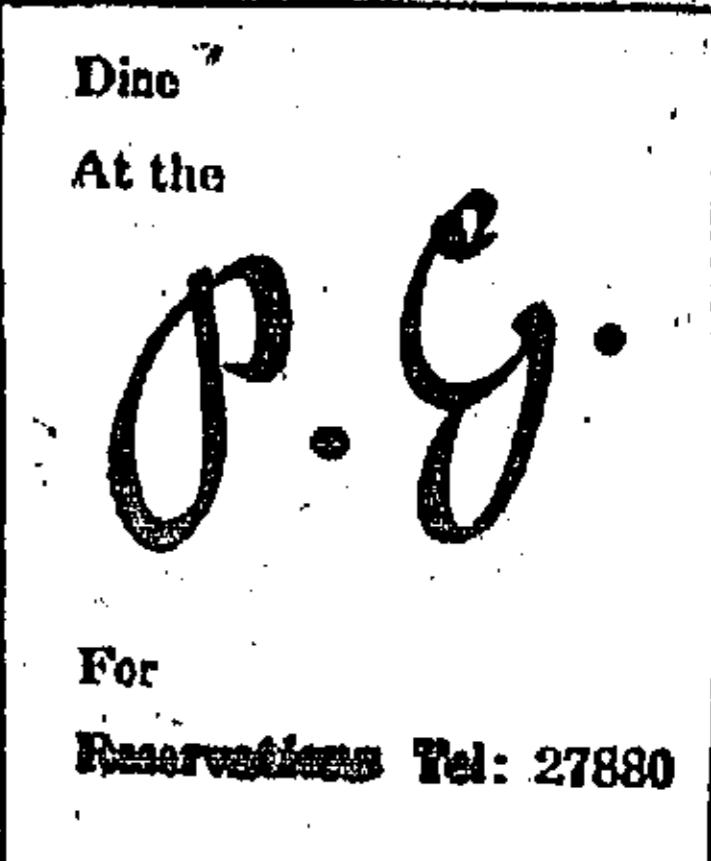




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GROMYKO STILL MANOEUVRING Big Four Deputies Make Little Progress In Paris

COMMENT

Sir Arthur Morse's sombre warning at the Bank meeting of the danger residing in America's foreign assets control regulations, of undermining confidence in the absolute obligation of banks to honour their commitments under commercial credits, has coincided unfortunately with indications that Washington negotiations seeking relaxation of burdensome restrictions have, at least temporarily, stalled.

No fault lies with the officials representing Hong-kong interests. Sharp internal differences prevail, apparently, regarding conditions affecting normal U. S. trade with the Colony. The State Department is prepared to accept assurances given in the Aide Memoire during Mr A. G. Clarke's visit. The zealous Commerce Department demands, as far as can be seen, not goodwill or good intent, but solid guarantees whatever that means.

The Chairman of the Hong-kong Bank made no bones on Saturday about the damage done by the application of rigid restrictions without warning, and was unable to offer expectation of early modification in favour of local importers and industrial enterprises. Licences are still being refused for practically all commodities essential to keep H. K. factories in operation.

Concerning the embarrassment caused by the blocking of assets, without questioning the urgent motives inspiring American policy Sir Arthur deplored the injury to the delicate texture of international trade and finance, and to faith in the sanctity of contracts. Ironically, in a sense, the main immediate encouragement to a more optimistic outlook arises from the conflict in Washington. The cleavage seems to be of such a nature that compromise is unlikely without an appeal to higher levels for decision. To Hongkong that means, so little headway having been made in meeting justifiable claims to reconsideration, that the second stage could hardly be more disturbing than the first. Meanwhile, it is imperative that both Hongkong and the British Embassy keeps the issue very much alive.

Russia Still Rejects The Western Formula

Russia tonight put forward revisions to her proposed agenda for a "Big Four" Foreign Ministers' conference on East-West tension.

A Russian spokesman, who said that this had been done to meet Western criticisms, said that Russia was dropping the reference to "withdrawal of the occupying powers from Germany."

SOVIET SUBMARINE BUILD-UP

London, Mar. 12. Mr L. J. Callaghan, Financial Secretary of the Admiralty, told the House of Commons today that Russia had more submarines than Nazi Germany, and that they would constitute a "threat" if Russia secured Atlantic bases. Mr Callaghan stressed the submarine danger and the means being taken to meet it, as he appeared in the Commons to outline the Navy's budget of £278,000,000 for 1951-52.

He said: "We have to look at who are building submarines to know what the potential danger is. Numerically (Russia has) a larger number of submarines than the Germans ever had, but there are factors which offset that. Unlike the Germans, the Russian submarines are distributed in the Baltic, the Black Sea, the North Sea and the Pacific.

"And they are not easily transferable from one sea to another.

"That is an important element. But there is no doubt that they will constitute a grave threat, especially if the Soviet Union is permitted to secure naval bases in the Atlantic."—United Press.

Violent Snowfall In Middle West

Chicago, Mar. 12. Residents of Iowa and portions of four adjoining states struggled today with the heaviest snowfall of the winter.

Light snow was still falling over Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Illinois. Sleet and freezing rain fell over a wide area stretching through the Ohio and Tennessee valleys into the southeastern states.

Sixteen Iowa cities were cut off from long distance telephone service by the big weekend storm that spread 18 inches of snow on some parts of the state within a 48-hour period. Some sections had a 23-inch accumulation of snow on the ground.

The Red Cross broadcast a request for distressed families to stamp signals into the snow if they needed air drops of food, fuel or cattle feed.—United Press.

The spokesman made the announcement to reporters in the street after leaving the Rose Palace where the deputies of the Foreign Ministers were holding their seventh meeting to try to hammer out an agreed agenda for their chiefs' conference.

The Soviet delegate, the Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Gromyko, had gone to the meeting his afternoon after week-end consultations with Moscow on the Western deputies' revision of their suggested agenda last week.

The Soviet revisions apply to that point of their suggested agenda which originally read, "Consideration of the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany and consequent withdrawal of the occupying powers from Germany."

The new version, according to the Soviet spokesman, reads, "Re-establishment of German unity and conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany."

MANOEUVRES

The Soviet delegation has so far held no formal general press conferences, but tonight was the second time that a member of the delegation had left to tell reporters in the street about the latest Soviet moves.

A French delegation spokesman remarked that it "seems that the Russians have made a concession on the second point of the agenda in order to maintain their position on the other two items on their agenda."

All last week Mr Gromyko had stood firm for inclusion in the agenda of German demilitarisation, reduction of armaments by the Great Powers, speed up of a German peace

NEW SCANDAL PENDING?

Washington, Mar. 12. Representative Herbert Bonner said today that his sub-Committee plans a full investigation into reports that American Army trucks turned over to the Philippines later were sold back to the United States.

Mr Bonner declared that if the story were true Congress should "look closely" at any more Philippine requests for military assistance.

Mr Bonner's inter-governmental relations sub-Committee has been investigating postwar handling of United States surplus war material. A dealer testified at a recent hearing that an American firm bought 900 trucks from the Philippine government for \$250 each and later sold some of them to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.—United Press.

treaty and the withdrawal of occupation forces from Germany.

The West wanted the Foreign Ministers to have a general discussion of European points of friction, the conclusion of an Austrian peace treaty as evidence of Soviet good faith, and the inclusion of the rearmament of Soviet allied states in any discussion of peace treaty obligations.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

During the weekend all the delegates had been in touch with their Governments. Observers believed that success or failure would depend on the new instructions given in these consultations, particularly those of M. Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet deputy.

Today the four deputies lunched with the French Foreign Minister, M. Robert Schuman, at the Foreign Ministry. Ambassadors and the deputies' chief advisers were also there.

The British Ambassador, Sir Oliver Harvey, had a 40-minute conversation with M. Schuman before attending the luncheon.—Reuter.

Pakistan Air Chief Arrested.

Karachi, Mar. 12. The Government announced tonight the arrest of Air Commodore M.K. Janjua, highest Pakistan official in the Pakistani air force, on suspicion of complicity in the conspiracy against the Government.

The announcement said Air Commodore Janjua had been "put under house arrest for suspected complicity in a conspiracy." The specific nature of the conspiracy was not disclosed.

Air Commodore Janjua's arraignment to five the number of prominent people arrested in the alleged plot.

The announcement denied rumours that a large number of officials had been arrested. It said stories on the conspiracy appearing in foreign papers were "completely false or grossly exaggerated." It advised Pakistan citizens to lend no credence to reports which were not issued by official sources.—United Press.

Grim Menace In Rubber Areas

Singapore, Mar. 12. Three thousand rubber tappers were idle in South Selangor and Negeri Sembilan States of Malaya today under intimidation.

Warnings and death threats are posted on the rubber trees. The Federal Labour Commissioner said that one woman had returned to work in a South Selangor estate and had been mutilated. Another tapper had his ears chopped off because he had not listened to the terrorists' warning and had an arm chopped off because he still tapped rubber.

Terrorists killed an estate manager in the Tanjong Malim area of Selangor today.

Government security forces killed 16 guerrillas over the weekend.—Reuter.

BARCELONA TOWN HALL RIOTS

Barcelona, Mar. 12. Rioting crowds shouting against the high cost of living set fire to curtains in the Barcelona City Hall today and the Civil Governor, in a broadcast appealed to them to remain calm, told them Communist agents were instigating strikes throughout the city.

The Governor ordered shopkeepers to reopen their shops under penalty of fines. He said Communist agents who had instigated sit-down strikes in offices and factories had already been arrested.

The Governor spoke after crowds had overturned stalls in the marketplace, set fire to an ambulance and punctured bus and car tyres in the city. By evening the city was calm. Electricity, water and gas, turned off earlier in the day, were restored and newspapers appeared as usual while streetcars reappeared.

Several persons were slightly injured in the rioting, police said, but none was seriously hurt.—United Press.

DECISION ANGERS HER

Cuernavaca, Mexico, Mar. 12. Barbara Hutton lost her last chance for a quick divorce from her Lithuanian husband today.

Judge Alfonso Roqueni ruined her hopes for an easy fast decree by officially recognising Prince Igor Troubetzkoy's legal protest against her suit.

His decision meant that Miss Hutton's effort to discard her fourth husband would be dragged out "indefinitely" if she continued her action here. Miss Hutton, angry over the loss of another court skirmish, instructed her lawyers to appeal "and keep fighting." In the meantime, she was reported anxious to return to New York, but was "still too ill to travel."—United Press.



Over 500 China Inland Missionaries, who are evacuating China, are to be airlifted from Hongkong. The first plane-load, consisting of 37 British missionaries, left Kai Tak in a chartered York airliner and here a group of friends is seen waving to them as the plane leaves.—Staff Photographer.

Italian Arms Dump Seized

Rome, Mar. 12. Police discovered a secret dump of arms and ammunition at Tivoli, 20 miles east of Rome, and laid charges against six men said to be Communists today.

A report from Veglie di Casagrande, in Calabria Province, Southern Italy, said that the secretary of the local Communist Party was arrested when police found a Hungarian-type grenade in his house.

During February police seized arms and ammunition in Genoa, Turin and Alessandria.—Reuter.

Merciful Neutrality In Red Cross Dressing Stations In Korea

British 27th Brigade, Mar. 12.

The tent was crowded with wounded, lying on low ambulance stretchers in rice straw that covered the frozen ground.

The Australian soldier turned round and smiled as much as the big shell dressing on his back would allow and glanced at the grey, padded figure lying alongside him.

He swore: "It's great having that slit eye... alongside me, isn't it? I like to cut his... throat."

There was mud and a purple bruise on the Australian's cheek. There was blood on his clothing. The strain of the past week's bitter fighting and the physical hardships showed on his lined unshaved face.

His one free hand fumbled for a cigarette and stuck it in his mouth. A tall bearded turbaned Sikh bent down and lit it for him.

Two feet across the rice straw a swarthy Lushai hillman knelt alongside a wounded Chinese Communist soldier, one hand gently supporting his head and the other holding a mug of hot tea to his lips.

The Australian's taut face relaxed and he grinned. Referring to the Chinese Communists, he said: "They fought pretty clean on the whole."

This is the atmosphere the Indian Field Ambulance induces—an atmosphere of merciful neutrality under the Red Cross.

This incident happened a few miles from the lines last night in a tented advance dressing station busy with casualties of the day's fighting.

There were Australians, Chinese, South Koreans and others lying on the stretchers, but as far as the Indians were concerned, they were all just wounded men.

NO DIFFERENCE

There was no difference in treatment. Where priority in treatment had to be made it was on the basis of how serious a man's condition was—not on his race.

The Indians have won a warm place in the heart of every British soldier up here.

And wounded Chinese Communist and North Korean prisoners have expressed themselves amazed at the kindness and courtesy they have been shown.

The Indian Field Ambulance is a picked unit of men from all parts of India—nearly all of them parachutists. Their commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Rangaraj, India's first medical officer parachutist, got his wings in 1941. He has consistently pushed forward his dressing station as far up to the front as possible and his team of specialists, pitting their skill against the primitive conditions, have performed major operations in the field to the sound of gunfire.

They have saved the lives of many soldiers in the past few weeks alone.—Reuter.

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**The Life of A Peking
Policeman**



A Chinese Picture in Mandarin Dialogue

TO-MORROW

"SPELLBOUND"

BRITAIN PLANS TO BUILD 232 NEW WARSHIPS

London, Mar. 12.

Britain will have 232 new ships in her Navy when the current and new three-year naval programmes are completed, Mr James Callaghan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, said today.

The new ships will range from the most powerful fleet aircraft carriers, Eagle and Ark Royal, both of 36,800 tons, to fast patrol boats.

Eagle, Britain's latest and biggest aircraft carrier, is now undergoing sea trial. Work is being pushed on with a similar carrier, Ark Royal, and four Hermes light fleet carriers, Mr Callaghan said.

There will be altogether six new aircraft carriers, eight new destroyers, 24 frigates and nearly 200 minesweepers and patrol boats, he added.

In addition to 60 cruisers now being modernised, about 70 destroyers would be either modernised or converted for anti-submarine work.

Today, Britain had 12 carriers. With the present programme she would have 18. Three in the Commonwealth made a total of 21.

Mr Callaghan said that the Navy could be mobilised now.

He went on to say that the balance of sea power had clearly tilted away from Britain very dramatically in the last 10 years.

"For the first time in many hundreds of years our fleet has been out-distanced and out-paced by a friendly ally," he declared.

BRITAIN'S PART

The contribution Britain could make to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation would be powerful and significant, but it would be doubled by the Americans.

At the start of the last war the British and American fleets were roughly equal in size and manpower.

But the Americans, starting with five carriers, finished with 98 compared with Britain's 17. They also finished with about double British strength in destroyers and frigates after starting at about level.

Today, Britain had 140,000 to 150,000 men in the Navy compared with the United States' 850,000.

The North Atlantic Treaty had turned what would be a hard, grim and uncertain battle of the Atlantic into a "confident prospect of success."

MORE TO COME

Other points he made were: The £273,000,000 for which he was asking did not take into account the additional programme laid down by the Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, in January.

Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa now had between them very sizable forces of aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers and frigates. They were a great addition to the British Navy's potential strength.

Mr Callaghan reported a new equipment for locating submarines. It attacked, located, aimed and fired all in one equipment.

He described as unprecedented the fact that the British aircraft carrier Theseus had had 1,300 deck landings in Korean waters without failure or accident. None of the ship's aircraft had been unserviceable for more than two hours.—Reuter.

Opposition Walks Out In Protest

Rangoon, Mar. 12.

The entire Opposition, made up of Independent and Left-wing members, walked out of Burma's Parliament today in protest against a restriction on time for debate of the Government's foreign policy.

Thakin Chit Maung, of the Burma Workers' and Peasants' Party, had spoken for 20 minutes in opening the debate when the Speaker asked him to take his seat.

He asked for more time. When this was refused, his Party members and the Independents, led by U Aung Than, walked out.

In a joint statement the Opposition members said, "We have lost all democratic rights even in Parliament but we will circulate our views on foreign policy through pamphlets."

The statement said that even in an important matter like foreign policy, only two Opposition members were allotted to speak—one Independent and one member of the Workers and Peasants' Party.

The Prime Minister, Thakin Nu, told Parliament that the Opposition had done "the wrong thing by walking out because it is at their request that an opportunity has been provided to discuss foreign policy." — Reuter.

Heiress Divorces

To Marry Again

Miami Beach, Mar. 12. The California heiress, Minerva Bell Ross, divorced her third husband today and made immediate plans to marry Elliott Roosevelt "the latter part of this week".

A close friend of Elliott's said the son of the late President and the attractive Mrs Ross would have a private wedding in the exclusive Sunset Island home she has rented for the winter. He said plans were made as soon as the 39-year-old heiress was granted her divorce at Key West.—United Press.

Reds To Print In Esperanto

Tokyo, Mar. 12. The Chinese Communists have finally hit upon a method of making their message understood by the people of the world. Radio Peking said today they are going to print in Esperanto.

The broadcast today said the "All-China Esperanto Association" was founded in Peking on Sunday and "organisations and individuals from 22 countries sent 158 messages of greetings."

The propaganda weapon of the Association will be "El Poplo Cino," popular esperanto magazine published in China.—United Press.

U.S. EX-SERGEANT'S CONFESSION

Super-Secret Of A-Bomb Mechanical Working Given To Reds

Witness Against Own Sister And Others Charged

New York, Mar. 12.

A former Army sergeant, David Greenglass, described in a Federal court on Monday the mechanical working of the atomic bomb — super-secret information which he said he had handed over to a Soviet atom spy ring.

EXTENSIVE CHINESE RETREAT

Korea, Mar. 12.

There are strong indications tonight that the Chinese Communist forces in the western sector are preparing to withdraw as far north as Chunchon, key communications centre only eight miles south of the 38th Parallel.

American staff officers believe, however, that the Chinese Communists will withdraw slowly on a defensive pattern similar to that which they had used in the past three weeks, leaving strong rear-guards on tactical features to delay the United Nations advance.

The Chinese Communists, for the past few days, had been evacuating Hongchon — their main supply centre in Central Korea — moving northwest toward Chunchon, and northeast, on the other main highways, towards the border.

An American tank column today drove northeast up the main highway to within two and a half miles of Hongchon. It was fired on by machine-guns and an anti-tank gun but returned without suffering damage.

Another tank column moved north for two miles and returned only when the terrain became unfavourable.

It is believed that the Chinese Communists will make their next stand delaying stand along the line of the Hongchon River, running east-west through Hongchon.

However, Staff officers here believe that with their present strength the Communists will not be able to hold the Hongchon River line for long and they have already prepared for further defensive withdrawals.

This theory has been strengthened by air reports which indicate a general withdrawal of the enemy's supporting weapons including artillery.—Reuter.

OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE

Fez, Morocco, Mar. 12. The Moroccan Socialist Party yesterday sent a telegram to Azzam Pasha, Secretary of the Arab League, asking him to stop "the campaign of absurd news" about Morocco.

The telegram said: "The Moroccan Socialist Party, amazed by the lies of the Istiqlal Party, condemns the intervention of this anti-democratic party which pretends to monopolise the nationalist idea; thanks the Arab League for its solicitude over Morocco and asks to have stopped the campaign of absurd news. Morocco is perfectly calm."

The Party sent another telegram to President Auriol of France, which said: "The Moroccan Socialist Party thanks you for your solicitude in view to solving the Moroccan crisis. It renews to you its desire for Franco-Moroccan collaboration in agreement with General Juin."—United Press.

Federal Judge Irving Kaufman cleared the court of spectators during Greenglass' testimony about the atomic bomb. He ordered the Press cut also, but later allowed reporters to return and "use good judgment" about what part of the testimony to pass on to the readers of their newspapers.

Greenglass, who has pleaded guilty to espionage and conspiracy charges on which his sister, brother-in-law, and a second man are being tried, took less than five minutes to describe the atom bomb, information which he said he betrayed to Russia in September, 1945.

The assistant United States Attorney, Mr Roy Cohen, referred to a sketch drawn by Greenglass and entered as a sealed government exhibit.

"Is that a cross-section of the atomic bomb as you gave it to Rosenberg?" Mr Cohen asked, Greenglass: "It is."

BAROMETRIC SWITCH

Greenglass told how he had described the action of the bomb to Rosenberg. Referring to key letters on the sketch he mentioned detonating a high explosive lens by a barometric switch. He described barium shields designed to protect explosives from deterioration from radiation of plutonium, which he identified as "fissionable material in a sphere".

The judge directed the Court stenographer not to transcribe this portion of his testimony and this was the portion which the Court directed the Press to use "good judgment" in describing.

Judge Kaufman said he thought the testimony "has probably fallen into the hands of those whom we are trying to keep it from" but added that he could not be certain of it.—United Press.

New Atomic Bomb Tests In America

Washington, Mar. 12. The Atomic Energy Commission chairman, Mr Gordon Dean, told newsmen today that new atomic test explosions would be held "later on" in Nevada, Eniwetok, and "other places".

Asked about the "other places", he said it is possible the weapon would be taken out into the middle of the ocean and dropped off.

Mr Dean said Conrad McKelvey, employee in the Commission's South Carolina office, had resigned after admitting he had let it be known that the Commission planned to build an atomic plant there. Because of this, no one bought land near the new plant site.

Mr Dean said no hydrogen bombs were exploded at the recent Nevada tests but he would not discuss them otherwise. The Commission deliberately was giving no clues because it wanted to confuse Russia. The Commission had "evidence" the Soviet was confused by the Frenchman flats tests in Nevada.—United Press.

Gandhi Letters Sold In London

London, Mar. 12. Three letters written by Mahatma Gandhi to an English Quaker friend, Stephen Hobhouse, fetched £14 in a London sale-room today.

In one he said: "I wonder if really man's duty is to be the helpless witness of tragedies being enacted in front of him." This was written from New Delhi in October, 1947, when Gandhi said: "The look of things here is certainly ugly. Let us see what God has in store for the whole of humanity."

In a second letter, Gandhi wrote: "I fear very much that your doubt about India holding on to the spinning wheel and all it means is not wholly unjustified.

"I advisedly use the adverb 'wholly' for appearances are more often than not deceptive. Though I see about me factories flourishing, my faith in the spinning wheel and all it connotes burns as bright as ever."

The letters were bought by dealers. Mr Hobhouse, who is now 69, has lived a life of simplicity and during the Mahatma's lifetime was a great admirer of his.

He published a pamphlet on his sayings in the early part of the last war.—Reuter.

Mutilation Of Prisoner

Los Negros, Admiralty Group, Mar. 12. An Australian War Crimes Court today heard how 29 "morbid-minded" Japanese watched the dissection of an executed Allied prisoner-of-war to provide "bears' stomachs" for a folklore remedy for sick Japanese officers.

The Court sentenced three former officers of the Japanese Navy to prison terms ranging from one to three years for mutilating the body.

The Prosecutor, Major H. J. Foster, described how the gall bladder was removed for the "bear's stomach" remedy for the officers, who were suffering from dysentery.

The three men were Captain Tamao Shimohara, already under sentence of death for murder, three years; Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Hikosuke two years; and Surgeon Lieutenant Kensuko Konishi one year.

The death sentence passed on Shimohara has not been confirmed by the Australian Government.—Reuter.

Canada's Huge Defence Bill

Ottawa, Mar. 12. The Finance Minister Mr D. C. Abbott, announced in the Parliament tonight that Canada's total government expenditures for the next fiscal year would be \$3,587,000,000. He said that about 44 percent of this would be for the Defence Department.—United Press.



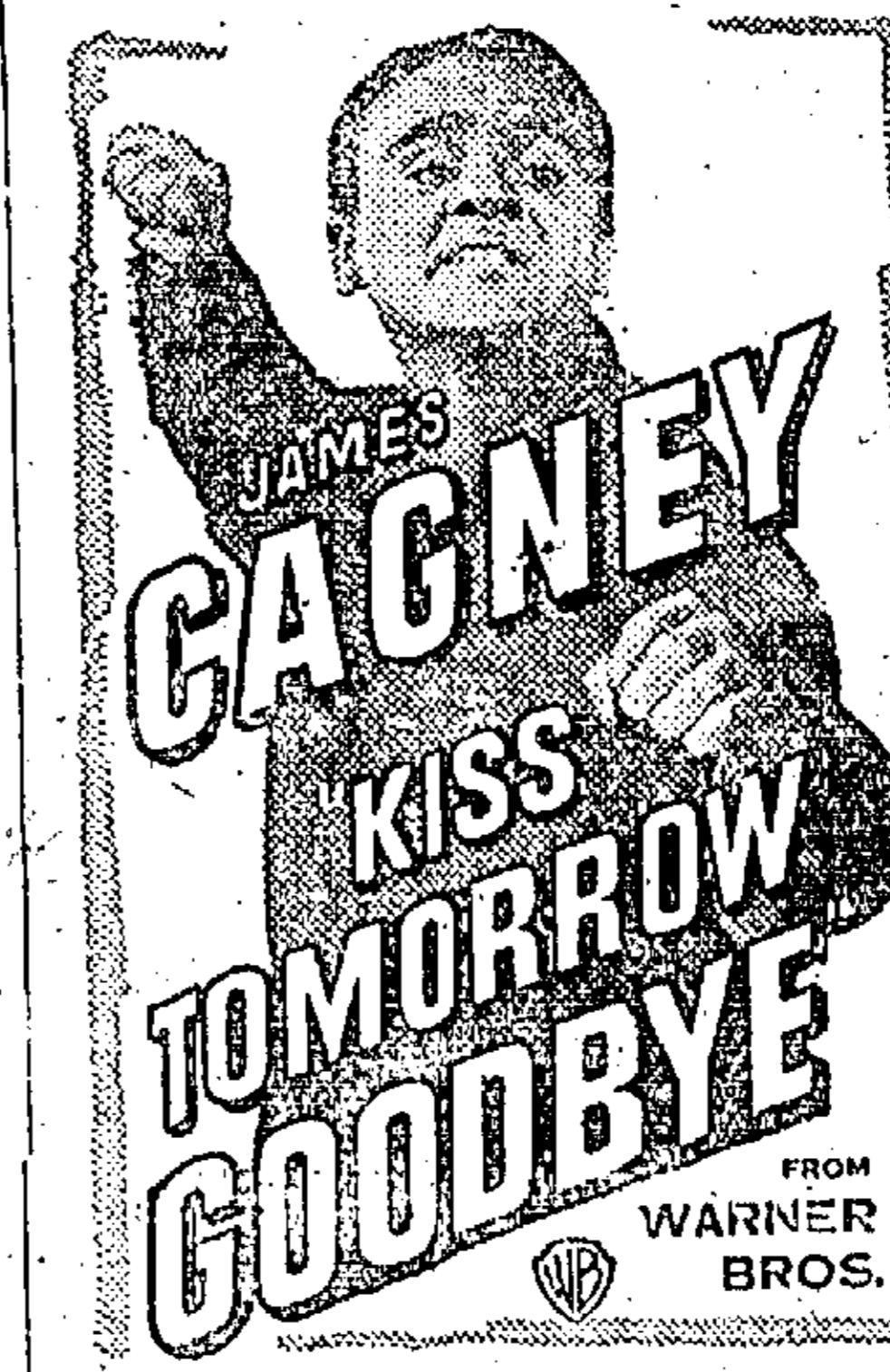
GETTING A BLESSING—Mary Tonatantic, eight, has her throat blessed by a priest during the traditional Catholic ceremony at the church of St. Ethelreda in London. The idea started 1635 years ago when St. Blaise, on his way to execution, saw a child choking to death on a fish bone. He touched the child's throat and healed it, and since that time the Roman Catholics have blessed throats in the Saint's name on the day he was martyred.

Sen. Vandenberg Suffers Relapse

Grand Rapids, Mar. 12. Senator Arthur Vandenberg, Republican champion of bipartisan foreign policy, took a turn for the worse today. The 66-year-old senior Michigan Senator suffered a relapse during his convalescence from two lung operations more than a year ago.—United Press.

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ADDED LATEST 20TH CENTURY-FOX MOVIE-TONE NEWS:

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ONE WAY OR THE OTHER



A UN tank splashes across an ice-coated river on the central Korean front. The bridge in the background was knocked out by UN bombers some time ago in an effort to delay Communist troops along the same route by which the UN forces are now returning.

Survey Of Pacific Air Route

Sydney, Mar. 12. A Catalina plane will leave here at dawn on Wednesday to try out the 8,500-mile route across the Pacific Ocean from Australia to Chile.

The plane, the Frigate Bird II, loaned by the Australian Air Force, will fly via New Caledonia, Fiji, Samoa, Cook Island, Tahiti and Easter Island to Valparaiso, Chile.

The Sydney Herald, commenting on the flight in an editorial today, said that the route would have obvious strategic value in the event of another war in which north and even central oceanic routes might be threatened with enemy interruption.—Reuter.

PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Copies of photographs taken by the South China Morning Post, South China Sunday Post-Herald, China Mail and Hong Kong Telegraph Staff Photographers are on view in the Morning Post Building.

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Russians Outlaw War Propaganda

Moscow, Mar. 12.

With Marshal Stalin present, the Supreme Soviet tonight outlawed war propaganda in any form and provided the maximum punishment possible under Soviet criminal law for offenders—25 years' imprisonment.

Marshal Stalin, accompanied by the Deputy Premier, Mr. Vyacheslav Molotov, and all members of the Politburo, received a standing ovation when he entered. Prolonged applause burst out when orators mentioned his activity on behalf of peace.

Deputy Nikolai Tikhonov, chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee, introduced the measure with a scathing attack on the United States, where, he said, newspapers, the radio, movies, literature had been mobilised to make the average man believe war is inevitable. Tikhonov delivered a half-hour speech accusing the American and British rulers of inciting war and wishing to hurl mankind into a third catastrophic world war while lowering living standards and enslaving other nations.

Tikhonov's speech, endorsed by several orators including the playwright Korstantin Simonov, also charged the American radio with inciting the American people to war. Simonov particularly accused the New York Times of vehement warmongering, falsification of the truth and libelling peace-loving nations. Tikhonov said the Soviet Press, radio, movies and theatres, unlike the American, did not encourage warmongering, crime and banditry, but were wholly devoted to the truth and to the peaceful creative

labour of the Soviet people.—United Press.

Alleged Appeal

By POW's

Tokyo, Mar. 12.

Peking Radio, monitored here tonight, described an alleged appeal signed by 279 American and British prisoners of war in North Korea demanding that the United Nations troops in Korea stop the fighting immediately in accordance with the peace formula put forward to the United Nations organisation by China's Foreign Minister, Mr Chou En-lai.

Among the 39 names of alleged signatories was one Britisher: "Marine Peter Desmond Murphy, of the Royal Marine Commandos."

The Radio said that the appeal, which was signed at a North Korean camp, had been cabled to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Trygve Lie.

The signatories were claimed to have bitterly criticised the Allied bombing of North Korean towns. They themselves had experienced the Allied bombing raids.

The Radio, quoting a later despatch from its correspondent in North Korea, described a meeting in which prisoners were alleged to have cheered and yelled with approval as the "peace appeal" was being read by "Staff Sergeant" Charles L. Harrison, of the United States 1st Marine Division.

The correspondent quoted a number of American prisoners captured near the Chosin Reservoir last November as making glowing speeches favouring the appeal.

The Radio said that a full list of the 279 names would be broadcast as space permitted.—Reuter.

KOREA DECISION UNLIKELY BY FORCE OF ARMS

Tokyo, Mar. 12.

Many staff officers at General MacArthur's General Headquarters now think in terms of an end to the Korean war only as part of a worldwide settlement or an explosion of the East-West conflict.

The officers say privately that unless the United Nations put in large reinforcements, a military decision cannot be forced locally and the end can only come about by diplomatic means—or an ultimatum to Russia and China that a continuation means total war throughout the world.

General MacArthur himself said for the first time last week that a stalemate was inevitable in Korea and appealed to world leaders to solve the problem, which was beyond his authority.

But despite the claims that at least 100,000 Chinese Communists with nearly as many North Koreans have become battle casualties in the last three months, there is no indication that the Chinese Communists are pulling out of Korea or are abandoning the struggle.

In fact an intelligence officer said today that new troops are reported moving north to Manchuria from China Proper.

There they will join the huge pool on the Manchurian border from which the Chinese commanders in Korea draw their front line forces.

HUGE RESERVES

The officer said that the Chinese High Command had deployed two Field Army formations straddling the Manchurian frontier vertically—with the minimum forces required for any situation in the battle-line and the maximum in reserve just north of the Yalu River, where they are safe from Allied attack.

He added that the Chinese Communists still had more men in this formation on the border and in Korea than were needed for the job.

He estimated that they had 33 or 34 divisions in the line and anything from between 50 and 100 divisions in reserve.—Reuter.

Hiss Conviction To Stand

Washington, Mar. 12. The United States Supreme Court today refused to review the conviction of Alger Hiss, former State Department official sentenced to five years' imprisonment in January, 1950, for perjury.

A Jury found that Hiss lied in denying that, when a State Department official, he handed over secret Government documents to someone acting for Russia.

Hiss was formerly Director of the Office of Special Political Affairs at the State Department. Since his conviction after two trials, Hiss has been free on \$10,000 bail pending the Supreme Court's decision.—Reuter.

N. Korea Claims

Tokyo, Mar. 12. Moscow Radio broadcast tonight a war communiqué from the North Korean General Headquarters which said: "The Korean People's Army maintains all areas formerly occupied by the United States with Chinese volunteers' units supporting."

On the previous day, the Radio said, North Korean troops on the central front killed and wounded 400 United Nations troops, took 120 prisoners, shot down a plane and destroyed four American tanks.—Reuter.

MACDONALD VISIT TO HONGKONG

(Our Own Correspondent)

London, Mar. 12.

After further talks today with the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Malcolm Macdonald, Commissioner-General for South-east Asia, flies to Hongkong.

It is understood he will remain in Hongkong for less than a week before continuing his journey to Malaya. No political significance is attached to the Hongkong visit: he arranged some time ago to attend there this week the University Congregation.

No official statement regarding the results of his London talks is being issued but it is believed they have been more optimistic in tone about the Southeast Asia situation generally than was possible on previous visits to London of the Commissioner-General.

According to the "Observer" columnist, Pendennis, yesterday, Mr. Macdonald believes the Chinese invasion of Tibet has affected the opinions of serious people throughout the whole area and that they are now more inclined to make a stand against the Communist threat.

He is also confident, according to the same source, that establishment in the near future of a Malayan Federal "Cabinet" is timely in view of the important part that will be played by Asian leaders.

Mr. Macdonald's hope is, Pendennis adds, "that Malaya will evolve towards Dominion status by the easy progression that proved successful in Ceylon."

Oslo's Decision To Join In

Oslo, Mar. 12. The Norwegian Parliament today unanimously passed a proposal that Norway should join the European Joint Defence System with joint defence forces.

The question of German participation in European defence was passed by 146 votes to four. Four Labour Party Members voted against the proposal.—Reuter.

Israeli Claims

London, Mar. 12. Mr. Eliahu Elath, Israeli Minister in London, today handed to Lord Henderson, Under-Secretary in charge of German Affairs, a note on the Israeli claims for German reparations, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

Israel asked the four occupation powers in January to consider the Israeli nation's claims for reparations in both the east and west zones.—Reuter.

ITALY LINES UP WITH WEST

Significant Interview Between Rome's Envoy And Tito

Italy's Interest In Situation On Yugoslav Borders

Belgrade, Mar. 12. Marshal Tito today received Signor Enrico Martino, Italian Minister in Belgrade, in the presence of the Assistant Yugoslav Foreign Minister, M. Leo Mates.

According to Belgrade Radio, Signor Martino told Marshal Tito that the Italian Government were viewing the situation in Eastern Europe and the arming of the Soviet satellites on Yugoslavia's borders with interest, and desired to maintain friendly relations with Yugoslavia.

In reply, Marshal Tito said he was happy that Italy took the same attitude as Yugoslavia to the situation in this part of the world and the maintenance of peace here.

Signor Martino's statement was considered by political observers here to have placed Italy on the side of Britain, France and the United States, who recently declared that they could not remain indifferent to a possible Cominform aggression against Yugoslavia. — Reuter.

ANGLO-ITALIAN TALKS

London, Mar. 12. The Italian Premier, Alcide de Gasperi, and Foreign Minister, Count Carlo Sforza, arrived here today by train.

The Italian leaders came to London for talks with the British Government on Italy's position in international affairs and her role in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

They were welcomed at Victoria Station by Lord Henderson, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, deputising for Mr Herbert Morrison, the new Foreign Secretary.

On Tuesday, Signor de Gasperi, the first Italian Prime Minister to visit Britain since the war, will have his first meeting with Prime Minister Clement Attlee at No. 10, Downing Street.

Official sources said the visit was aimed at promoting closer Anglo-Italian friendship and that the talks would not be centred around any specific question such as Trieste. The delegation was scheduled to remain until Friday.

TRIESTE ISSUE

Official quarters said Britain did not intent to raise the question of Trieste during the forthcoming conversations with Signor de Gasperi and Count Sforza but it was expected that the Italians would do so.

"We are well aware Russia would like to embroil Yugoslavia and Italy over Trieste and for this reason we are not going to make any suggestions to either one side or the other."

The Main Question At Paris

New York, Mar. 12. A Herald-Tribune editorial said today that Russia broke the Potsdam agreement when she allowed four-power control of Germany to break down, ending the chances of unity.

The paper said, "Yet it is Russia's stubborn attempt to confine the German problem within the bounds of the document which she dishonoured which constitutes the main question at Paris. Unless it is answered satisfactorily in advance of the meeting of Foreign Ministers, the meeting might just as well not take place.

"Neither the West nor awakening Germany can consent to turn the clock back to 1945 in one region while the Soviet Union in every other area continues to demonstrate to the free peoples that it is later than they think." — United Press.

Petain Worse

Paris, Mar. 12. A spokesman for the Ministry of Justice said today that the health of ex-Marshall Henri Petain had become worse during the last several days. — United Press.

Evacuation Demand Repeated In Cairo

Cairo, Mar. 12.

The Egyptian Prime Minister, Mustafa El Nahas Pasha, today reiterated Egypt's demands for the evacuation of British troops and "the unity of the Nile Valley" (uniting the Sudan with Egypt).

Expressing regret at Mr Ernest Bevin's resignation as British Foreign Secretary, the Prime Minister told the newspaper, Al Balagh: "I am sure we wished to put an end to the state of doubt existing between our two countries and to replace it by an agreement and better understanding.

"It is for Britain to meet our national demands for the immediate evacuation of British troops and the unity of the Nile Valley under the Egyptian Crown.

"That is essential to the maintenance of peace and security in the Middle East." — Reuter.

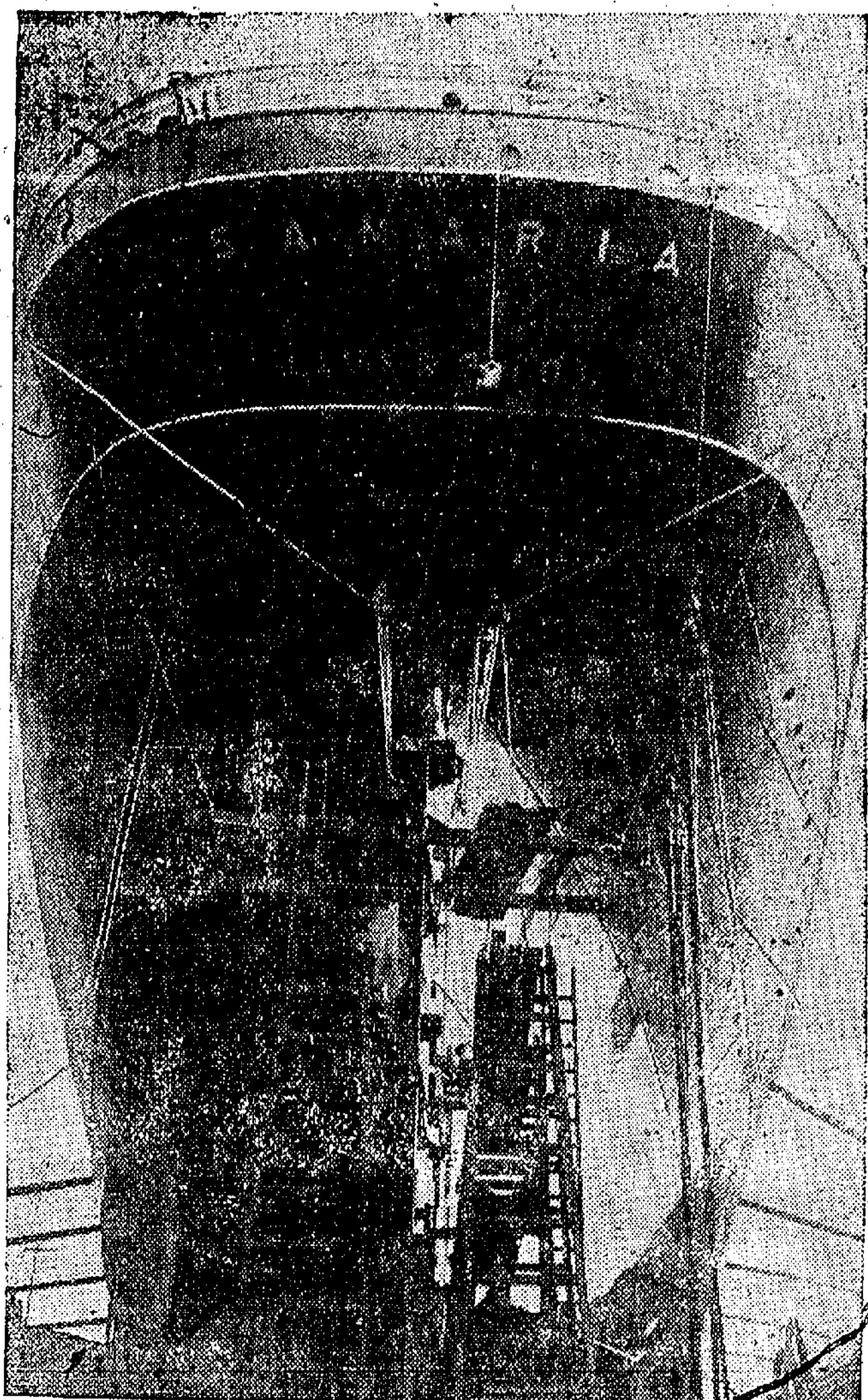
COMMONS QUERY

London, Mar. 12. A Labour Member of Parliament asked the Foreign Secretary, Mr Herbert Morrison, today to tell the Egyptian Government to drop the demands for the evacuation of British troops from the Suez Canal area.

The Member, Mr Thomas Reid, said that Britain was bound by treaty to aid Egypt if she were attacked and the Suez Canal area was the place which British and Egyptian forces might have to defend in a sudden emergency.

Mr Kenneth Younger, Minister of State, replied that both Britain and Egypt were very conscious of the need to ensure the proper defence of this area.

He recalled an earlier statement to Parliament that discussions were going on between the two Governments. He added that these talks were aimed particularly at reconciling the need for active defence measures in peacetime with the political difficulties raised in Egypt by the presence of foreign military forces in that area. — Reuter.



The 19,597-ton Cunard liner Samaria is seen in drydock in Liverpool, where she was surveyed and underwent preliminary work prior to a complete reconditioning in Clyde. Eighth and final Cunarder to be reconditioned since the war, the Samaria will re-enter the company's Canadian service. Completion of the work will bring to 300,000 the total tonnage reconditioned by Cunard since 1945.

Tibetan Mission For Security Talks In Malta Begin

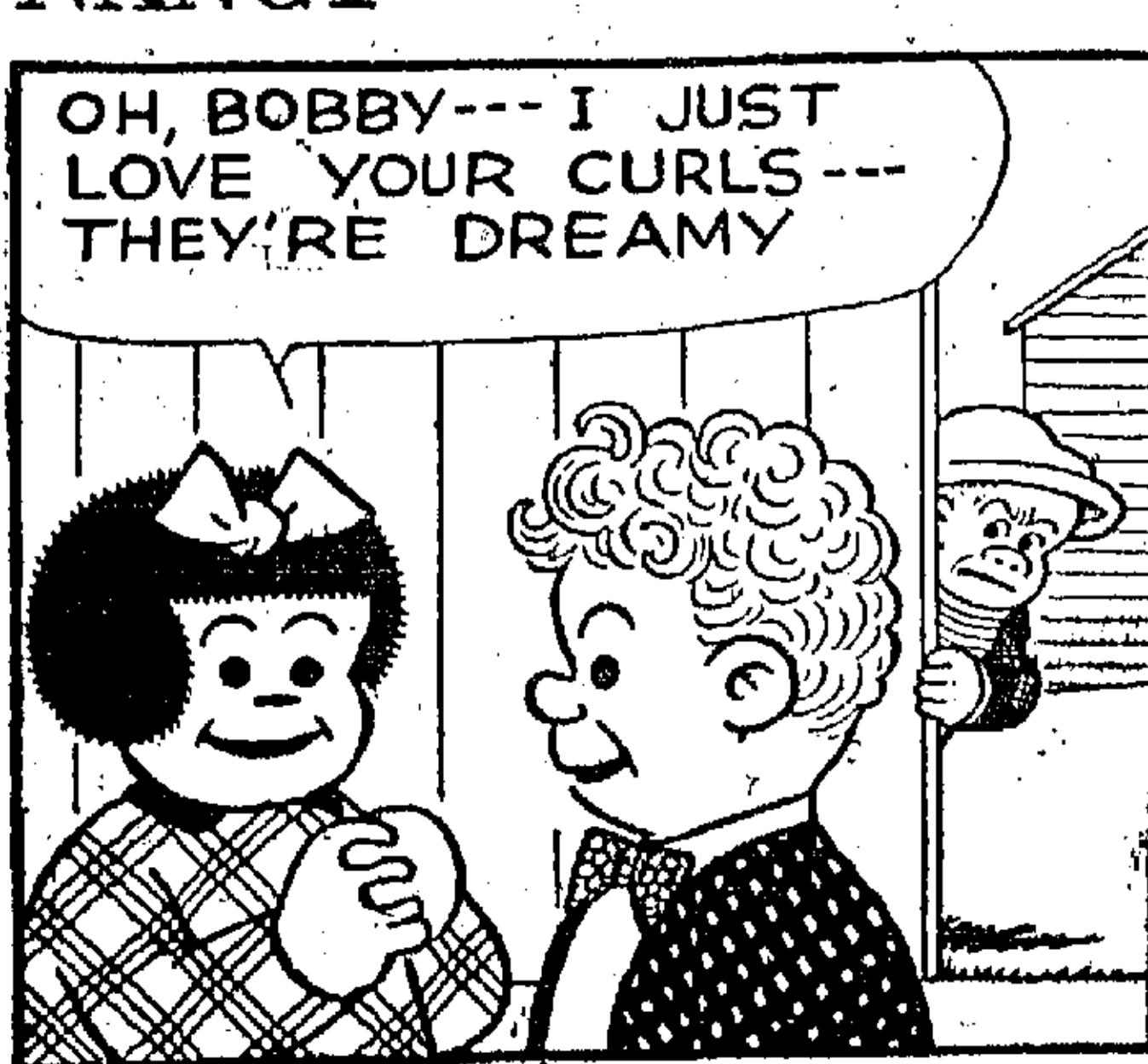
Valetta, Mar. 12. British and United States Service chiefs started Middle East security talks here today.

Usually well-informed sources believe it unlikely that a decision would be reached on an appointment to the Mediterranean Supreme Command. The talks will probably end tomorrow.

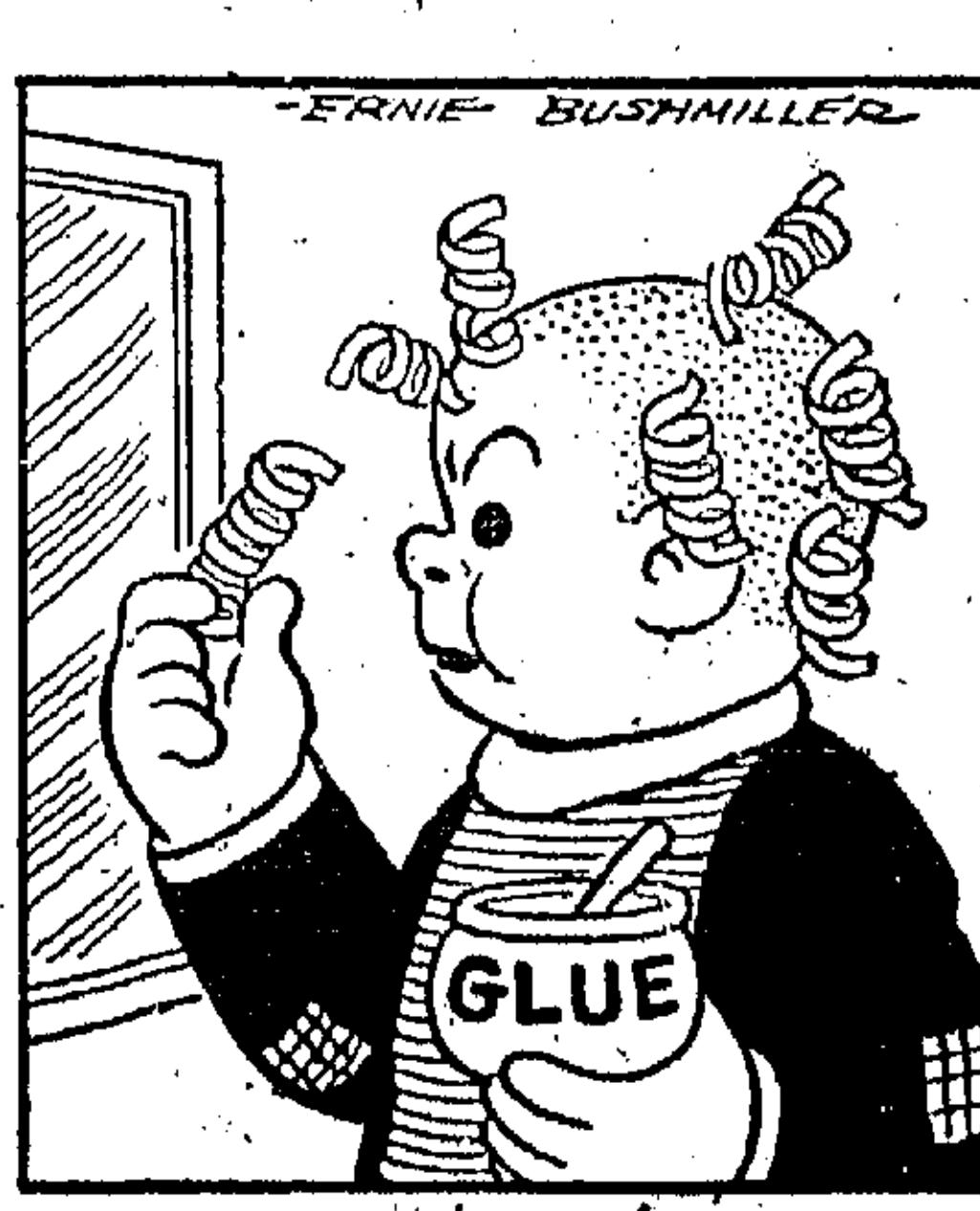
The British representatives at the talks are: General Sir Brian Robertson, Army Commander-in-Chief, Middle East; Admiral Sir John Edelston, Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Fleet, and Air Marshal Sir John Baker, Commander-in-Chief of the Middle East Air Force.

The principal American representative is Admiral Robert Carney, United States Naval Commander-in-Chief in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. — Reuter.

NANCY Woodn't Do



By Ernie Bushmiller



Brentford v. Manchester City



Jeffries, Brentford's goalkeeper, smothers the ball as Smith (No. 10), City inside-left, dashes up. Greenwood, Brentford centre-half, is standing by. Brentford won 2-0.

Foreign Boxers Should Do Well This Year In The United States

Says CORNELIUS RYAN

New York.

The year 1951 should be another good one for foreign boxers in the USA, and, from the standpoint of championships, may be one of the best.

During the year, foreigners probably will get a chance at the title in five divisions and would have a reasonable chance in four of these fights.

The heavyweight, light-heavyweight titles seem sure to stay in American hands. Cesar Brion of Argentina is the only major heavyweight from outside the USA, and he would be given little chance with Ezzard Charles.

Light-heavy Champion Joey Maxim probably will lose his title, but to Bob Murphy, Harry Matthews or Archie Moore.

Ike Williams has no serious threat to his lightweight crown. Ray Robinson probably will defend some time during the year against Dave Sands of Australia, a capable man who might provide an upset.

Robinson also might have trouble with Laurent Dauthuille of France, although Ray would be favoured.

Drobny Beats Ampon In Three Sets

Cairo, Mar. 11.

Jaroslav Drobny, self-exiled Czech star, retained the men's singles title to-day in the Egyptian lawn tennis championships. In the final he beat Feliciano Ampon (Philippines). 6-3, 6-4, 6-0.

Miss Shirley Fry (United States) won the women's singles title on Saturday, beating Miss Louise Brough (United States) 6-3, 6-4.

Drobny's precision and powerful stroking paved the way to his run-away win over Ampon. He rushed the net at every opportunity to smash away the Filipino's returns.

Ampon fought tenaciously in the second set and covered a lot of ground to make some grand retrieves, but Drobny stepped up the tempo and raced through the final. Reuter.

BRITISH ATHLETES MUST DEVELOP THE 'KILLER' SPIRIT

Says McDonald Bailey

There are in Britain today four outstanding middle-distance runners who are not only as good as any in the world but who stand a wonderful chance of capturing Olympic titles at Helsinki next year.

But before this statement is taken too much for granted let me say that unless these athletes get down to serious training and planning right now they will find the opposition just too tough to handle.

Roger Bannister, 22-year-old Oxford University miler, is perhaps the greatest prospect of all. I saw Roger run his record-breaking mile of 4 min. 9.9 sec. at the Christchurch Centennials last December and I was amazed at the pace of this brilliant performer.

At the same time, however, I admit I was a bit surprised when he replied: "Oh, I'll think about it as soon as the weather gets better."

This attitude is, in my opinion, not good enough. Temperament, determination and willingness

LACK OF TRAINING

I felt that the previous day's running had taken too much out of him and so revealed lack of sufficient training—as I myself suffered at these same Games.

Now I hope that Roger, like myself, learned something from this experience. I am all against his burning himself out in record-breaking performances.

But with youth on his side he should start this season to build up that solid foundation which is so vital against the tough Scandinavians and Americans.

With the right conditioning Bannister should surpass the late Jack Lovelock's 1,500 metres Olympic record of 3min. 47.8sec., made at Berlin in 1936.

Now we come to John Parlett, European 800 metres and Empire Games half-mile champion. If natural ability were everything, then Parlett would be sitting pretty for Helsinki.

NOT GOOD ENOUGH

But I have often heard this athlete's running described as erratic. Sometimes he will come from "nowhere" to win. At other times he will be well down the field. It seems that no one, not even John himself, can predict what he is going to do next.

When I asked Parlett what he was doing about training

Jim Ferrier Wins Miami Beach Golf Tourney

Miami Beach, Fla., Mar. 11.

Jim Ferrier, of San Francisco, playing one of the hottest golf streaks of his career, won a fighting victory in the Miami Beach Open to-day, his second championship in a row.

Ferrier throws lots of punches, but they are not damaging, whereas one good left hook by Sandy would end the fight.

Vic Towell of South Africa holds the bantamweight title, and Luis Romero of Spain is his top challenger. There is talk of Towell boxing in New York, perhaps against Luis Galvani of Cuba.

Jean Sneyers of Belgium and Terry Allen of England are the chief challengers for the flyweight title held by Dado Marino of Hawaii, and either has a good chance to win, since Marino is 34 years old.—United Press.

It was a clearcut victory, however, because Ferrier was four under par and a certain winner before getting a bogey on the final hole.—United Press.



Roger Bannister

to train hard must be a part of any athlete's make-up.

In direct contrast in their approach to training are Bill Nankeville, AAA mile champion, and Yorkshireman Len Eyres, Empire Games three miles title holder.

RIGHT ATTITUDE

Both these men have the confidence and temperament to win at all times. Nankeville has impressed me particularly by his forthright attitude. On one occasion he heard that one of his rivals was being tipped to win an important race.

Bill immediately challenged this, and to back up his own words, went on to win hands down.

Generally speaking, though, my candid opinion is that British athletes are not aggressive enough. By this I do not mean that they should come out "fighting mad" and with that "win-at-all-costs—nothing-barred" look. But a bit more of the "killer" spirit in athletics would, I am convinced, help our boys, especially in the international field.

Britain has the men to win at Helsinki and they must have no excuses so far as lack of preparation—mentally as well as physically—is concerned. There is no time to lose. So let's go then.

Baseball To Have A New Commissioner

Miami Beach, Florida, Mar. 12.

A. B. Chandler failed today in his efforts to get re-elected as Baseball Commissioner. Nine club owners voted to elect him. Seven voted against him. It takes 12 votes for election.

The dramatic decision to oust him as the game's ruler came at a special meeting of club owners. It lasted more than three hours.

Chandler's successor will not be named for some time, probably about July. This was the third time that the club owners repudiated the man they elected Commissioner in 1945.

A statement issued by Cincinnati Reds said: "The joint committee on screening candidates will continue and will report later. The club owners are determined to elect the best possible man for the job."

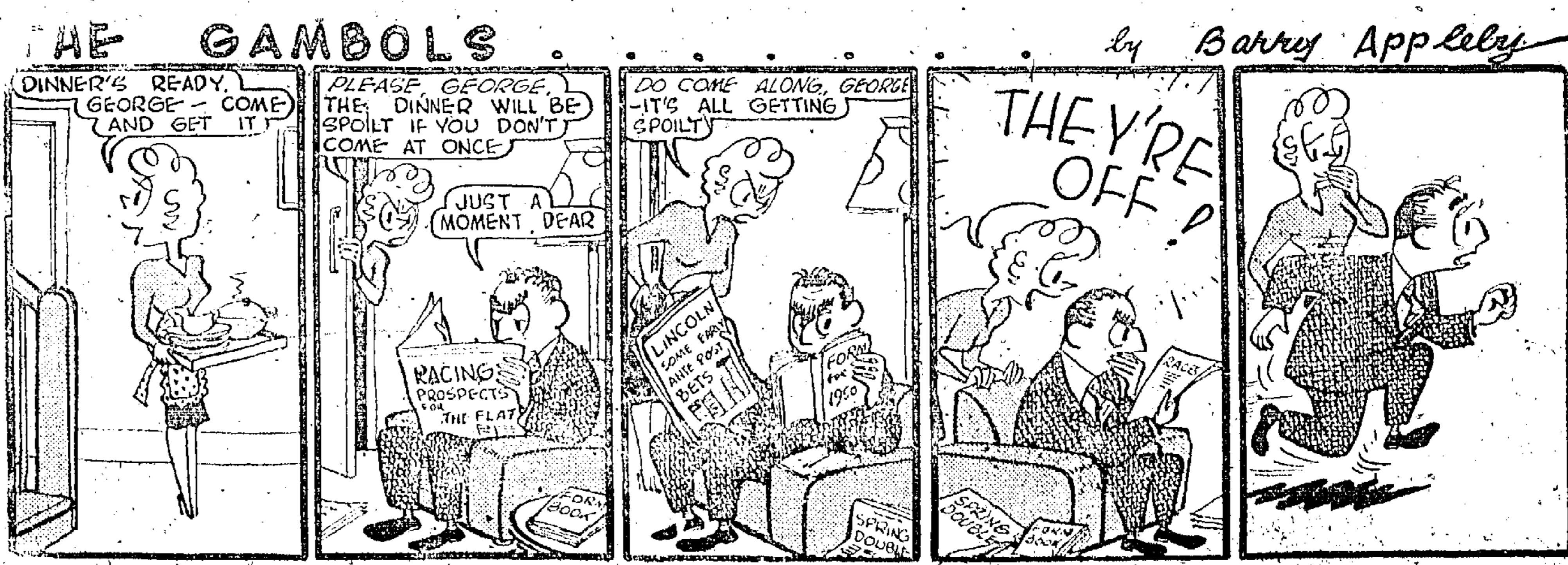
The Screening Committee was appointed in December after Chandler first failed to get re-elected.

Chandler said, "I have promised my full co-operation to the club owners in whatever they want to do. I want to make it as easy as possible for them to elect a new commissioner." That statement indicated that he is willing to resign—something he refused to do in December.—United Press.

Thomas Cup Travels To England

The £1,700 Thomas Cup for badminton won by Malaya in 1949, is being sent to England for exhibition in the international sports trophies sections of the Festival of Britain.

It will be returned to Malaya well before the 1952 tournament. Since it was brought to Malaya, the Cup has been on exhibition and then kept in the vaults of a bank.—Reuter.



FOR THE BUSINESSMAN

London Takes Dim View Of American Decision On Tin

London, Mar. 12.

British tin circles were not unduly surprised by the Washington announcement today that the United States Government was to become the sole importer and seller of tin.

"After the recent attack on tin producers by the United States Senate Preparedness Sub-Committee and the decision last week to stop the stockpiling of tin, the latest move was regarded as logical."

The main feeling in London was one of disappointment that the United States should take major decisions on tin as a commodity immediately before the International Conference on the metal, due to open in Washington on Wednesday.

It was felt that the United States had hardly helped to obtain the right atmosphere for the conference by taking important decisions and making statements which were bound to cause resentment and controversy.

In some circles it was felt that the chances of a successful outcome to the tin talks had definitely been jeopardised by the American action.

The London tin market was not particularly upset by the news, which had no effect on cash tin but caused prices of forward tin to decline moderately.

Dealers were not emphatic about the future price outlook and generally considered it was premature to say what long-term effect on prices the United States decision would have.

It was thought possible that the construction Finance Corporation might purchase through dealers, in which case the price setback might be only temporary and not unduly severe.—Reuter.

TO LOWER PRICES

Washington, Mar. 12.

The Government's action in taking over as sole buyer of tin for United States consumption and ordering that all supplies be put under allocation control beginning May 1 was designed to bring down the price of foreign tin on which the United States depends for its supplies.

It designated the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to make all United States purchases of foreign tin.—United Press.

LONDON TIN MARKET

London, Mar. 12.

Tin has begun to look cheap to consumers. Prices closed today at the end of the official morning session as follows:

Spot tin, buyers	1,240
Spot tin, sellers	1,260
Business done at	1,250
Three-months tin, buyers	1,105
Three-months tin, sellers	1,110
Business done at	1,120-1,105
Settlement	1,250

—United Press.

Rubber Futures In Singapore

Singapore, Mar. 12.

Prices of rubber futures closed here today as follows:

Number 1 rubber, per lb.	203½-204½
March	199-200
April	194-195
May	194-195
Number 2 rubber, March	194-195
Number 3 rubber, March	179-180
Number 4 rubber, March	169-170
Spot rubber, unbaled	204½-205½
Black crepe	145-147
No. 1 pale crepe	206-211

—United Press.

Coalition Talk Is A Vain Hope

By A. J. Cummings

THE Sunday newspapers were peppered with speculative rumours about the imminence of a coalition of British political parties.

All these rumours appear to come from a common anonymous source which ascribes to unnamed Labour back-benchers gossiping in the lobbies and smoking rooms a sudden readiness to join up with the Opposition — partly through acute anxiety over the international and domestic situation and partly on account of a very human desire to share Labour's heavy responsibilities with the Opposition.

In other words, the suggestion is that Labour would like to pass the buck, without letting go the supreme authority now vested in Mr Attlee.

Though one Tory commentator stresses the point that Tories don't want to "pull Socialist chestnuts out of the fire," and would prefer to wait for an early General Election which would probably give them "a working majority," you may take it almost for granted that most Tories would accept a coalition offer, even if (for the

time being) Mr Churchill had to play second fiddle to Mr Attlee.

What is the truth behind the outbreak in the Sunday Press? Is it just a probing reconnaissance or is there any more in it than that?

It is of course, quite likely that one or two depressed and over-fearful Labour members have opened their mouths in private in favour of letting in the Tories and Liberals, on terms.

Labour's View

BUT I am as certain as one can be of anything in politics that the Labour Party as a whole remains bitterly opposed to an alliance with the Tories and would regard it as a suicidal act.

Their memory, direct or historical, of the 1931 debacle, when Ramsay MacDonald joined Baldwin, is in the nature of a fanatical recollection.

"No truck with the Tories" is still the motto that sticks like a limpet. Ask Michael Foot, their stiff-necked pamphleteer.

Their violent reaction in the House last week, when Mr Churchill advised the Prime Minister to scuttle steel nationalisation if he wanted national unity, astonished the Tory leader and startled the House.

The boozing, very rare in the Commons and against the rules, did not sound exactly like a prelude to political companionship.

Further it can be said on very good authority that Labour Ministers are as antagonistic to a coalition as the main body of their supporters.

Apart altogether from any rational political reasons they might make public, they see themselves pilloried in their own party as traitors if they were to invite Churchill and Co. to a share in the honours of government.

There are large numbers of people who, impatient with what they may well regard as a selfish pose in a period of great peril, and not understanding the depth of Labour sentiment, would undoubtedly welcome a coalition at this time.

Time Not Ripe

IT is a fairly common view, not alone among Tories, that domestic controversies should be shelved and that the parties should wholeheartedly coalesce in order to face events on a united front.

That time, however, is not yet. Only with the greatest possible reluctance, if we were at war or on the very brink of war, would the Government be likely to call in the aid of the forces of the Opposition; and even in the former circumstances the decision might be delayed until the strength of public opinion made it imperative.

Let it not be forgotten that in the last war eight months had passed before Labour consented to serve in the Government. It had steadfastly refused to serve under Chamberlain.

MacArthur

NOT unnaturally, most people are trying to put the war cloud behind them. The cloud hangs heavily all the same.

Opinion here is crystallising in the sense of a general belief that the cloud will not lift as long as General MacArthur is in control in the Far East.

The belief is not closely related to his military competence, though some American military authorities have of late become sharply critical on this subject.

It arises from an instinctive perception that the Chinese see in MacArthur the ruthless em-

bodiment of their own picture of Western imperialism at its most aggressive.

MacArthur, the friend of Chiang Kai-shek; MacArthur, the man who won't give back Formosa to the Chinese; MacArthur, the American potentate whose resolute aim is to impose his will on the Chinese nation from his high and mighty seat in Tokyo—that is how Mao and his comrades at least profess to see him.

How, then, the British are disposed to ask, can the Chinese Communist Government be expected to discuss genuine peace terms while its suspicions are kept actively alive by the persistence of the MacArthur regime?

The Sacrifice

IN spite of the growing voice of criticism in the U.S.A. Americans think they would face if MacArthur were deposed; and I am assured that, if Truman were to depose him now, the President's fate too would be sealed.

It is more probable, alas, that through Republican pressure Acheson and not MacArthur will be sacrificed.

For obvious reasons Mr Attlee can't say these things. But it may be useful for our American friends to know what many people in this country are thinking and saying to-day.

An Empty Bet

MY modest appeal for more gusto in our artistic and intellectual life has brought both approval and protest.

One respected correspondent, noting my lament for the past glories of Hazlitt, writes acidly:

My bet is that space problems, libel, specialisation and the fact that he had both knowledge and taste would have cracked Hazlitt out of Fleet Street to-day within a month; and he would have broadcast, with luck, twice only.

On the contrary, I think Hazlitt would have made a brilliant conquest. But the bet is an empty one. There are no Hazlitts to-day, and there is none in the offing. Modern criticism is the apotheosis of the second-rate. Sorry.

STANDARD BRIDGE

By M. Harrison-Gray

Dealer: South

Game: all

N.

♦ 10 3

♦ J 5

♦ J 7 6

♦ A Q 10 9 4 3

W.

E.

♦ 7 6 4 ♦ K Q 9 5 3

♦ A Q 8 7 3 ♦ 10 6 2

♦ 5 4 2 ♦ A 8

♦ K 5 ♦ J 7 2

S.

♦ A J 8

♦ K 9 4

♦ K Q 10 9 3

♦ 8 6

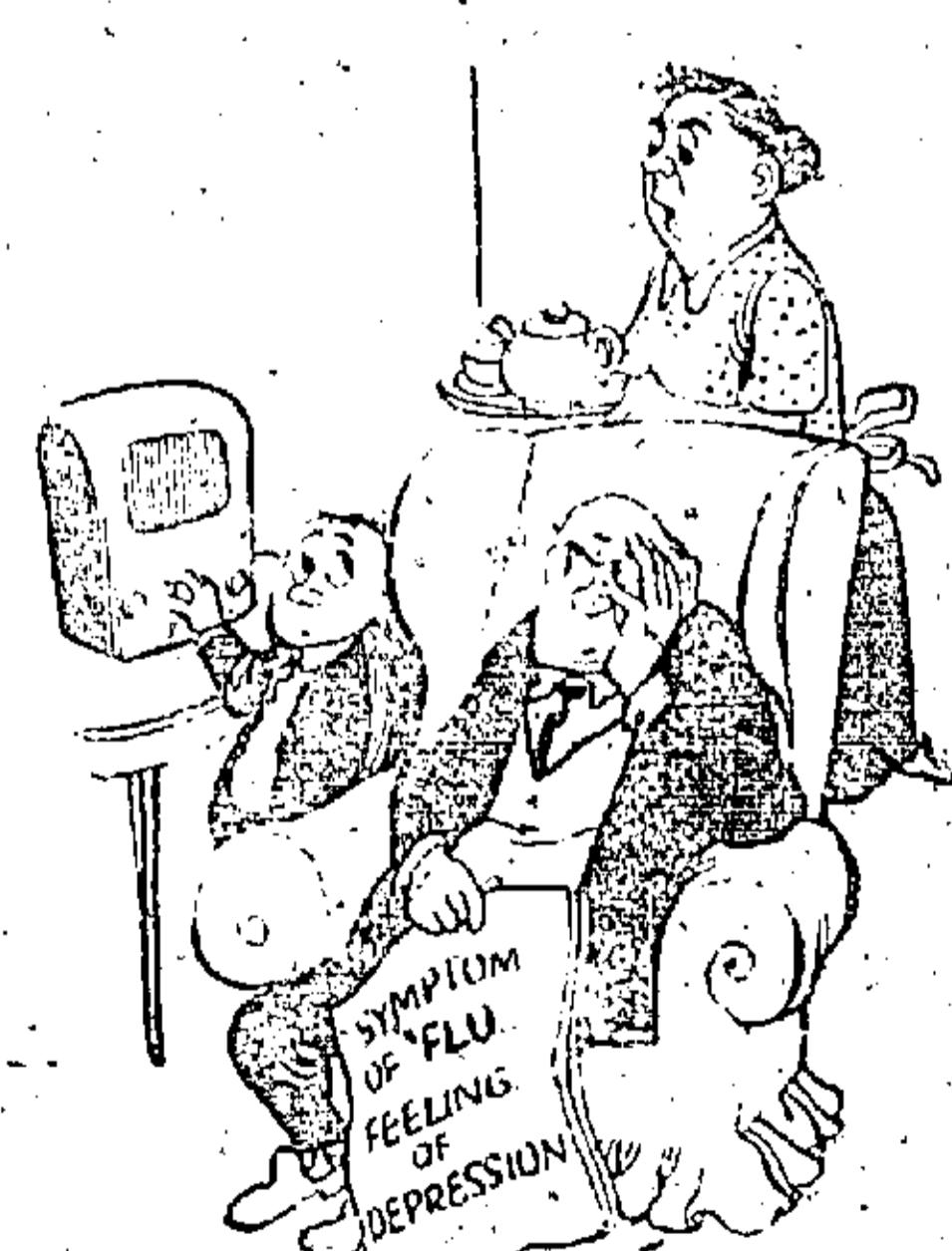
This hand should have been played quietly for a part-score after One Diamond by South. Two Clubs by North and a neutral Two Diamonds by South. Instead of passing, North bid Three Clubs and South tried Three No-Trumps.

West led ♦ 7 to Dummy's ♦ J. East gave South a temporary reprieve by playing low when ♦ 6 was led and ♦ 6 followed. Normally, West should play ♦ K to interrupt the run of the suit, but in this case he did well to play low ♦ 9 was finessed in the forlorn hope that West held both missing Club honours, but a Heart return from East put the contract two down. Had West played ♦ K at trick 3 he would be allowed to hold the trick; unless he found a Diamond switch South would be one down only.

London Express Service

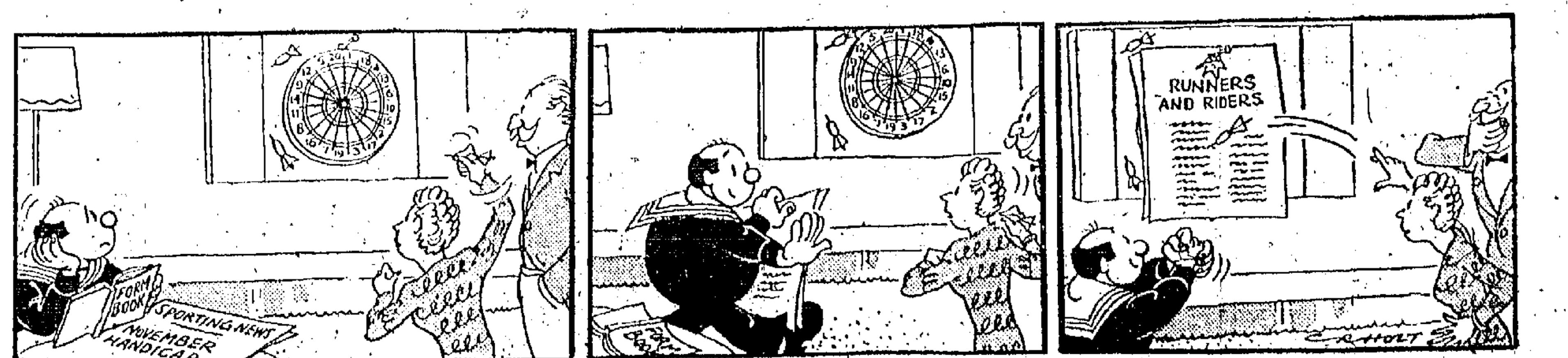
JEST A MINUTE!

By GEOFFREY EVANS



"Johnny, switch the news off before father thinks he's got 'flu.'

ABLE SEAMAN



By Holt

REDS IN KOREA AVOID CONTACT

Ability To Launch Surprise Attack Gone, Says Gen. Ridgway

Sharp Fighting Confined To Eastern Zone

Central Front, Korea, Mar. 12.

United Nations troops, edging slowly forward today behind a screen of tanks, found Chinese Communist and North Korean lines almost deserted.

This was reported a few hours after the Eighth Army Commander, Lieutenant General Matthew B. Ridgway, had claimed that the United Nations offensive in Central Korea had destroyed the Communist Army's ability to launch any surprise counter-offensive.

Frontline commanders, who had advanced under the protection of an artillery barrage and low-flying fight planes, said that the Communists appeared to be pulling back to new defence lines.

But reconnaissance pilots returning from sweeps behind the Communist lines reported that they were unable to identify any particular point in the "back area" where there were signs of a build-up.

Only on the eastern front was there fierce resistance today.

American infantry advancing up a narrow mountain pass towards the small village of Yudongni, ran into North Koreans manning road-blocks and deep narrow trenches on either side of the road.

The Communists fought back with scores of machine-guns and snipers—fiercely enough to hold up the G.I.'s.

The American party with no heavier weapons than machine-guns, ran into a hail of bullets. They radioed back for howitzer crews and in a few minutes hundreds of heavy shells were lobbed on to the North Korean gun nests. As the barrage lifted the North Koreans—those that had survived the bombardment—manned their guns again.

An American officer said: "Artillery could not have laid more accurately on to them, but they were saved by their deep trenches. It takes a direct hit to kill one or two men."

Along the rest of the central front, United Nations commanders reported that the enemy appeared to be avoiding contact.

FOUR-MILE PROBE

Fifteen miles east of Seoul, the American 25th Infantry Division probed four miles into formerly strongly defended Chinese Communist lines, but found nothing to oppose them.

The Americans, however, withdrew by nightfall to consolidate their line, now six and a half miles ahead of where they had jumped off from the Han River six days ago.

This is the eastern claw of the 30-mile wide pincer movement which threatens to envelop Seoul.

Intelligence officers of the Division said that probably three out of four Chinese Communist regiments which had opposed them earlier had been completely smashed by the artillery pounding of the British and American guns which had preceded the advance.

The western claw of the pincer, manned by the United States 3rd Infantry Division, continued to hold their positions unopposed on the south bank of the Han River west of Seoul.

The river curves northwards after skirting South Seoul, flowing into the Yellow Sea 13 miles below the 38th Parallel.

COHESIVE LINE

On the central front American, British, Australian, Canadian and Greek infantrymen, supported by tanks wherever the rugged terrain allowed, advanced only 3,000 yards despite the lack of enemy resistance.

A Headquarters officer said: "Though the enemy has pulled back — whether across the Parallel or to a new defence line—it will not affect the speed of the United Nations advance.

"We are not advancing any faster because we spread out in a great line across Korea that must be kept cohesive."

"Furthermore, the terrain is so rugged that it is only by a slow advance that we can keep ourselves backed up by artillery and our tremendous mobile service units."

The officer likened the United Nations advance to a great line of "beaters." The troops are combing every gully and ridgeline for pockets of enemy soldiers who, if left behind, might attack from the rear.

He said: "This is not like Europe, where if the enemy disappears the army just barges ahead. We have to walk and walk slowly. We have to comb every inch of ground and take no chances."

With today's advances the United Nations' line came little more than a mile closer to the 38th Parallel—now an average of 24 miles away.

TREMENDOUS VICTORY

The Eighth Army Commander, Lieutenant-General Matthew B. Ridgway, questioned by correspondents today, said that even if the war ended on the 38th Parallel, it would be a tremendous victory for the United Nations."

Officers of General Ridgway's staff said that the General meant by this that China's entry into the Korean war aimed at driving the United Nations forces "into the sea"; any outcome short of this would be a "tremendous victory for the United Nations."

General Ridgway said that he knew of no plan to end the war on the 38th Parallel; but if the war did end there it would be a "tremendous victory for the United Nations."

It would be an "incalculable defeat" for Communist China if it failed to drive the United Nations forces into the sea, he added.

General Ridgway was speaking at a press conference on the central front as Allied troops pursued the Communist forces towards the Parallel.

NEARING HONGCHON

Australian and Canadian infantry smashed through to the approaches to Hongchon, 18 miles south of the Parallel and the pivot of the Communist supply system.

To the east 10th Corps troops advanced two and a half miles in pursuit of the Communists pulling back.

General Ridgway placed the ratio of Communist casualties to those of the Allies in the current offensive, which began six days ago, at "well over 60 to one."

The Eighth Army Commander said that the Korean war could be called "a draw" if the United Nations failed to de-

feat the "mass of China with our handful here."

But he said that the United Nations had not set out to conquer China. He said the Allied forces had "let a lot of air" out of the inflated balloon of Chinese "military establishments." The degree to which her military reputation had been deflated would influence the thinking of millions in Asia and their Governments.

"Communist China, having set out to destroy United Nations forces in Korea, must concede it a defeat if she fails."

BACK-HANDED

The Eighth Army Commander said that the Communists reacted in almost the opposite way to which he had anticipated when he began his offensive. They had given up land masses on the western flank of the western front around the junction of the Han and Pukhan Rivers without giving battle but had launched counter-attacks in the east, where he had expected little or no resistance.

General Ridgway said that the capture of sizable amounts of Communist arms was significant. Though the enemy had unlimited manpower, he must find it very difficult to replace those arms.

In a Manchurian border dogfight today, 12 American Sabre jet planes chased 30 Communist MIG-15 jet fighters across the border near Sinuiju, on the Korean side at the mouth of the Yalu River.

The United Nations line across the central front was almost straight tonight after substantial gains yesterday and today.

The 10th Corps speeded up its advance on the eastern flank today. Decimated North Korean elements retreated rapidly before the American 7th Division north and west of Amidong.

The Americans reached within a mile and a half of Changgongi, a Communist base 27 miles south of the Parallel.

Hongchon, to the west-northwest, the main supply and communication centre, 22 miles south of the Parallel, is a vital objective to both sides.

The Communists were expected to make a determined stand for this town, which Commonwealth troops here, spearheading the Eighth Army's drive, have approached to within a few miles.

The fall of Hongchon would menace the Communist positions around Seoul to the west and probably make further defence of the South Korean capital impossible.—Reuter.

Soviet Using U.K. Jet Engines

London, Mar. 12.

Brigadier Fitzroy MacLean, Conservative, declared in the House of Commons today that the MIG-15 jet engine being used against the United Nations troops in Korea was simply a copy of the Nene engines sold to the Russians by the Ministry of Supply in 1947.

The Supply Minister, Mr George Strauss, had stated in reply to a question that Britain sold 25 Rolls Royce Nene Mark-1 and 30 Derwent Mark-5



AS IF WE DIDN'T KNOW—No one was surprised when Hollywood's dance directors banded together and announced that Betty Grable had the most beautiful legs of any film star. The famous legs are much in evidence in "Call Me Mister," Betty's new film.

Queuille Likely To Win Vote

Paris, Mar. 12.

The new French Government formed by the Prime Minister, M. Henri Queuille, on Saturday will present itself to the National Assembly tomorrow afternoon.

The Premier will ask the Assembly to express its confidence in the new Ministerial team. Observers consider that M. Queuille is certain of a substantial favourable vote.

The new Cabinet met for the first time today.—Reuter.

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NOTICE

HONG KONG AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REMINDER

All Members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting of the Hong Kong Automobile Association will be held in the HONG KONG HOTEL ROOF GARDEN

TO-DAY
TUESDAY, 13th March, 1951,
at 5.30 p.m.

By Order,

PEAT, MARWICK,
MITCHELL & CO.

Secretaries & Treasurers.

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